



October 31, 2017

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Lansing, MI

Re: HB 4198, 4265

Dear Committee members,

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), a coalition of more than 70 member organizations across the state, supports this bill package as these help protect vulnerable roadway users including bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users and create clear standards for safe passing distances.

Michigan has sadly seen a startling increase in bicycle fatalities and injuries over the past two years. The Office of Highway Safety Planning reports 38 bicyclists were killed in 2016 in Michigan, up 81% from 2014. Additionally, 1,959 bicyclists were involved in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2016. Of those cyclists involved in crashes in 2015, 55% were going straight ahead prior to the collision. We have seen these headlines of tragedy continue throughout 2017, with more than 10 widely reported incidences already this year.

These tragedies can be prevented, and these bills provide an opportunity to help decrease fatalities and injuries to bikers. 39 other states have laws similar to HB 4198 and 4265 in place today, as well as 7 local Michigan communities, including Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, and Kalamazoo. Michigan is woefully behind these other states, and supporting these bills will catch us up to the rest of the country when it comes to safety for the most at risk road users.

We urge the committee to support HB 4198 and 4265 and move Michigan forward in offering all roadway users safe trips on the roads. Whether it be for a commute, fitness, or recreation, all roadway users deserve a sense of safety when using Michigan's roads.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Hammond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Hammond
Deputy Policy Director

